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July 1, 2007

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.
Director of Mental Health

SUBJECT: **MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT SKID ROW SERVICES – QUARTERLY
REPORT JULY 2007**

This is in response to your Board's April 3, 2007 motion instructing the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to take several actions related to efforts to reduce homelessness in Skid Row in coordination with communities outside of Skid Row.

Your Board instructed DMH to provide a quarterly progress report on the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) community-based services and supports planned for Skid Row including:

- Progress on implementation of programs planned for Skid Row, including Service Area Navigator Teams, Crisis Resolution Services, Full Service Partnerships, Wellness Centers, and the development of housing options;
- Tracking outcome measures for MHSA funded programs in the Skid Row area; and
- Tracking the number of clients who refuse medical treatment for alcohol and drug abuse.

The attached report describes the status of new programs in the Skid Row area. We will continue to provide quarterly reports, as instructed.

MJS:TB:MM:LAH:oc

Attachment

c: Sachi A. Hami, Executive Officer

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACT
SKID ROW SERVICES PROGRESS REPORT

July 1, 2007

On April 3, 2007, the Board of Supervisors approved the Department of Mental Health's (DMH) request to utilize Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) funding to implement the following programs:

- Crisis Resolution Service (CRS) at the Downtown Mental Health Center (DMHC) that will provide short term, intensive, mental health and supportive services, including comprehensive assessment.
- Skid Row Management Team to provide overall administration, management and coordination of existing services, and the development of new services in collaboration with local stakeholder planning groups.
- Contracted Wellness Center for the Skid Row area to serve individuals who no longer require intensive mental health services. The Department will issue a Request For Services and will return to the Board for approval when a contractor has been selected for recommendation.

DMH MHSA funded services in the Skid Row area serve individuals in need of integrated mental health services and supports. New services provided include a Full Service Partnership (FSP) program and a Service Area Navigator Team (SANT). In addition, in Fiscal Year 2007-2008 DMH is planning to implement a directly operated Wellness Center in the Skid Row area.

Full Service Partnerships

The DMHC FSP program, implemented in December 2006, will serve 180 consumers at any given time. Currently, 75 individuals are enrolled in the FSP program, and we anticipate that the program will be fully enrolled by the end of the calendar year. The outcomes described below indicate the DMHC FSP program has already been extremely successful in its efforts to reduce homelessness and incarcerations.

- 98% decrease in days of homelessness in the year prior to enrollment compared with the period since enrollment in the program
- 84% decrease in days of incarceration in the year prior to enrollment compared with the period since enrollment in the program

- 5% increase in the days of hospitalization for psychiatric reasons in the year prior to enrollment compared with the period since enrollment in the program

Increased rates of hospitalization may be the result of the DMHC FSP program providing outreach and engagement services to individuals who had been seriously underserved prior to enrollment in the program. These persons may require hospitalization for stabilization to be successfully reintegrated into the community.

Service Area Navigator Teams (SANT)

The SANT in Service Area (SA) 4, which includes DMHC and the Skid Row area, assists individuals of all ages in need of mental health and other supportive services to access the appropriate level and type of services. SANT has been developing linkages with various community-based organizations in order to refer individuals in the Skid Row area to an array of services. SANT services include:

- Outreach and engagement for individuals, families and community based agencies to enhance access to mental health services
- Participation in SA Impact Units that enroll individuals into mental health programs such as FSPs, Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) programs or Assembly Bill 2034 Programs, or provide linkage to other community-based programs

Currently, SANT is linking individuals to newly implemented FSPs that enable persons in need of these intensive, integrated services to access them in a timely manner. Since implementation in January 2007, SANT has:

- Received over 350 referrals for adults and young adults from throughout the SA for outreach, engagement and enrollment into FSP or one of the other intensive programs
- Received over 176 referrals from various sources in the Skid Row area such as DMHC and the Union Rescue Mission
- Enrolled approximately 100 individuals living in the Skid Row area in a FSP, ACT, or other program

Some of the outcomes of efforts in the Skid Row area include:

- One hundred (100) clients enrolled in either FSPs or other intensive programs (e.g. Assertive Community Treatment and Assembly Bill 2034) have been successfully housed in permanent housing/long-term housing with the assistance of the program or are applying for permanent/long-term housing. Mental health staff assist in the completion of housing applications, help people to enter shelter care until permanent/long-term housing is found, assist in obtaining benefits to pay for housing and assist in identifying housing locations.
- Thirty-five (35) clients referred for services have refused services or have been determined to need other levels of care or types of services.
- Forty (40) individuals residing in the Skid Row area are currently receiving outreach and engagement services.

Housing Trust Fund

A Countywide Housing Trust Fund has been established to support the development of new permanent supportive housing for people with psychiatric disabilities. The Housing Trust Fund will provide funds for on-site supportive services and/or project-based operating subsidies for supportive housing projects and scattered site supportive services for shared housing projects. The DMH Director has appointed a Housing Trust Fund Advisory Board which serves as an official advisory body to DMH on all MHSA housing initiatives. This body has finalized its funding criteria and priorities recommendations to DMH which will be used to inform and assist the Department in making decisions. The Department is in the process of developing a Housing Trust Fund Request for Proposals which is projected to be released in September, 2007.

Crisis Resolution Services/Skid Row Management Team

DMH has been working with Chief Administrative Office Classification Compensation representatives to develop Crisis Resolution Services and the Skid Row Management Team. Pending implementation, the Department has appointed an Acting District Chief to coordinate the transition from SA wide leadership to local management oversight. The Acting District Chief has met with local Skid Row stakeholder groups, including the Skid Row Community Advisory Board and the Skid Row Homeless Healthcare Initiative to facilitate community service planning that will ensure an integrated health delivery system in the Skid Row area including primary health, substance abuse treatment and mental health services. The Department has also appointed a Chief of Medical Services to the Skid Row Management Team to aid in this effort.

The Department continues to develop additional outcome measures and tracking. The collection of data related to persons who refuse medical treatment for drug and alcohol abuse will be tracked in the next quarter.

Significant progress has been made during this quarter towards the goals of reducing homelessness and incarceration while promoting recovery and community reintegration for persons in need of mental health services and supports in Skid Row. The Department will continue to provide progress reports as instructed.